

FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee Progress Update

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FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee Chair

US Forest Service, R&D

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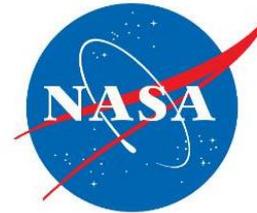
Introduction

The **Mission/Purpose** of the FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee is to

- promote standards of accuracy and ‘currentness’ in vegetative data financed in whole or in part by Federal funds;
- exchange information on technological improvements for collecting vegetative data;
- encourage the Federal and non-Federal community to identify and adopt standards and specifications for vegetative data; and
- collect and process the requirements of Federal and non-Federal organizations for vegetative data.

Introduction

Partners include:



NGDA Data Themes and Data Sets

Land Use Land Cover and Ecosystems and Biodiversity Themes



Recent Meetings

- ❖ Vegetation Subcommittee meetings are held via conference calls almost monthly.
- ❖ The topics discussed at these meetings include:
 - Outreach and Education
 - Sustaining NVC infrastructure and strategies for funding
 - Increasing State Partnerships
 - Support for the Ecological Society of America Vegetation Panel
 - Progress on use of NVC

Some of the outcomes arising from these meeting include:

- Plans for presentations at ESA and Natural Areas meetings in 2017
- Training webinars for users.
- Proposal for funding infrastructure shared with agencies
- Identification of the need to resolve issues with cross-walking vegetation.

Recent Meetings

Other meetings:

- FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee working groups
- Ecological Society of America (ESA) Vegetation Classification Panel - monthly conference calls.
- ESA Vegetation Panel Workshop, April 4 and 5, 2017
- Forest Service Existing Vegetation Technical Guide Implementation Management Team – quarterly
- 3 Instructional webinars to the Forest Service Regional Ecologists

Recent Developments/Projects

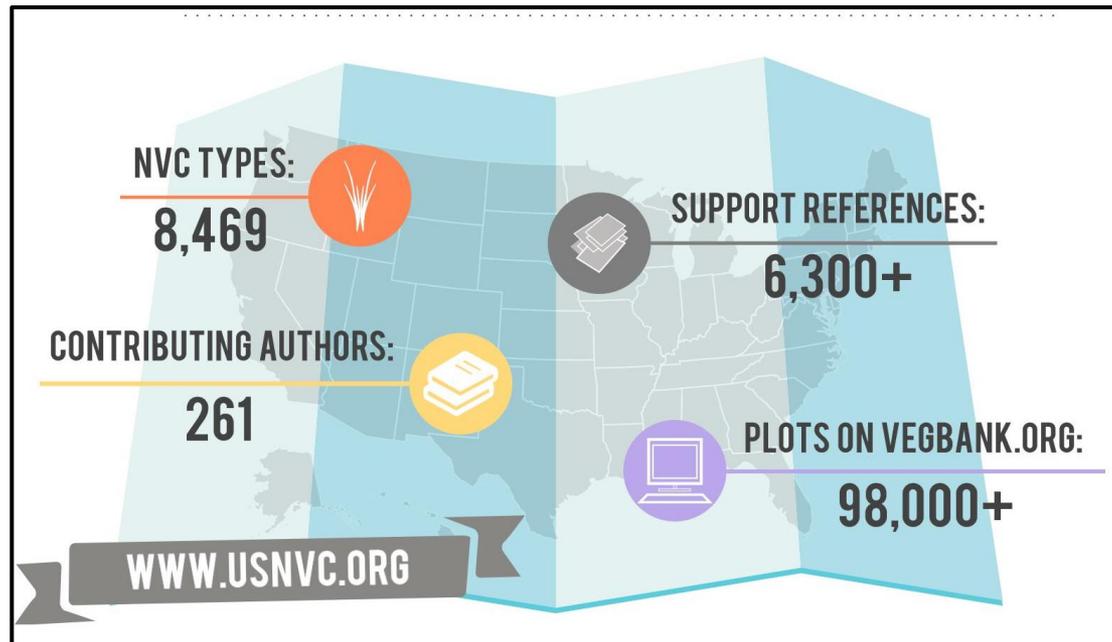
Release of the formal version of USNVC online



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). At the top left is the ESA logo with the text "ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA" above "esa". The main image is a scenic view of a waterfall with a person in a blue cap and jacket sitting on a rock in the foreground. A white text box on the right side of the image reads "The Nation's Largest Community of Professional Ecologists". Below the image is a navigation menu with links: Home, Membership, Science, Careers & Certification, Education & Diversity, Policy & News, Journals, Meetings, About, History, and Donate. The main content area features a headline: "Adaptable, ecology-based U.S. National Vegetation Classification for monitoring multi-scale change debuts today". Below the headline is a sub-headline: "Public release of a 20-year collaborative effort to devise a unified and consistent national reporting system for plant communities opens new avenues for broad-scale and long-term analyses of landscape change." At the bottom of the article, it says "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, 23 February 2016" and "Contact: Liza Lester, 202-833-8773 ext. 211, LLester@esa.org".

Recent Developments/Projects

Now large amounts of data are available to the public in a searchable format.



Recent Developments/Projects

- **Formal classification revision process established**

Proceedings of the US National Vegetation Classification

Current Issue
Volume 1 | Issue 2

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
esa
100 years

[« prev issue](#) [next issue »](#)

Issue contents

Proceedings of the US National Vegetation Classification. 2016. Volume 1, issue 2
Gordon Potter
Published: 2016-11-17 | DOI: 5545
Volume 1, Issue 2, Pages 1-16

This an abstract example to see if this file will download.

[Download PDF](#)



Recent Developments/Projects

- **Completion of mapping using the NVC by the National Park Service – Appalachian Trail.**

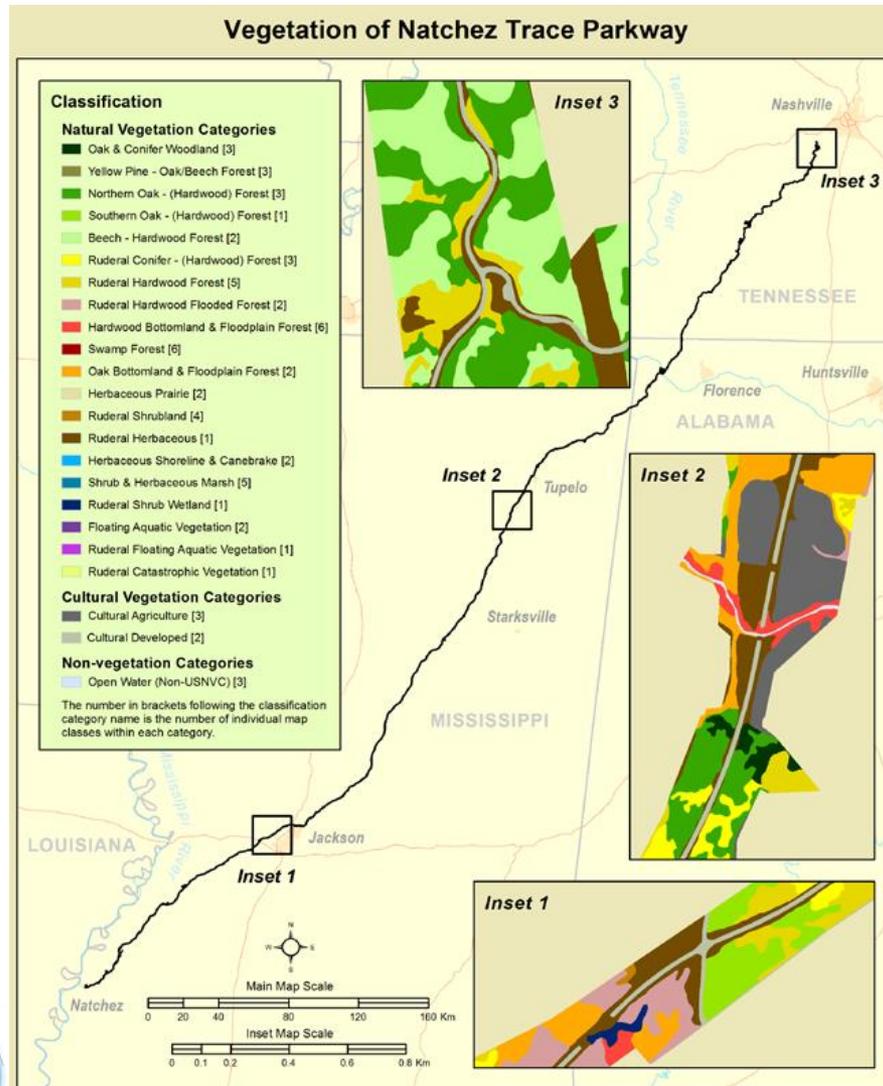


Recent Developments/Projects

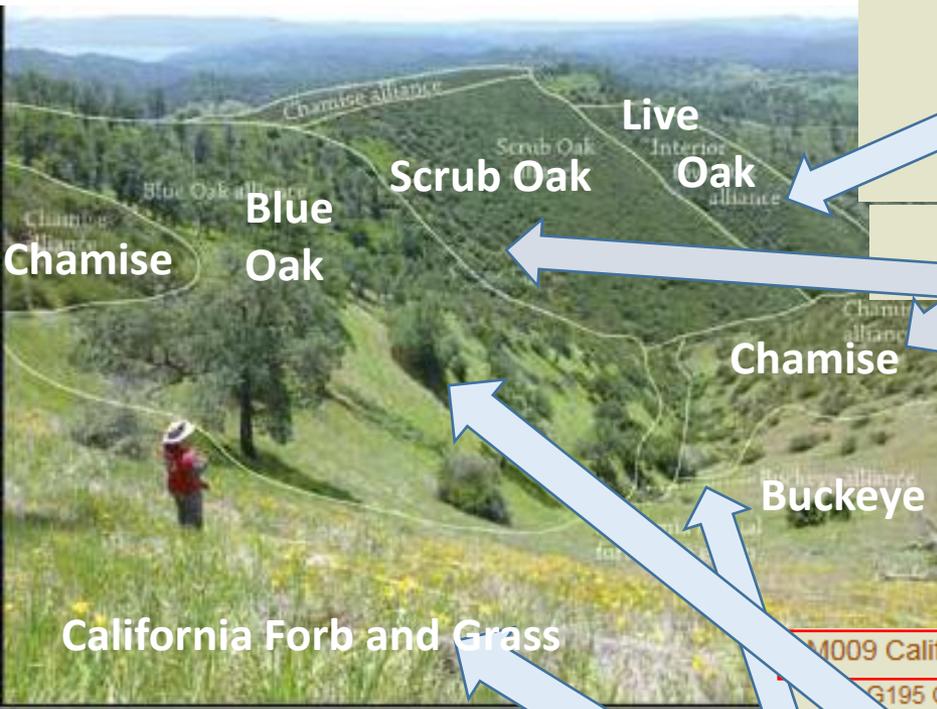
- **Completion of mapping using the NVC by the National Park Service – Natchez Trace.**



Recent Developments/Projects, cont.



Recent Developments/Projects



- 1.B.1.Nc Californian Forest & Woodland Division [↗](#)
 - M009 Californian Forest & Woodland Macrogroup [↗](#)**
 - G195 Californian Broadleaf Forest & Woodland Group [↗](#)
 - A3346 California Live Oak Upland Woodland Alliance *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance [↗](#)
 - CEGL002860 California Live Oak / Chamise Woodland Association *Quercus agrifolia* / *Adenostoma fasciculatum* Woodland Association [↗](#)
 - CEGL002864 California Live Oak / Scrub Oak Woodland Association *Quercus agrifolia* / *Quercus berberidifolia* Woodland Association [↗](#)

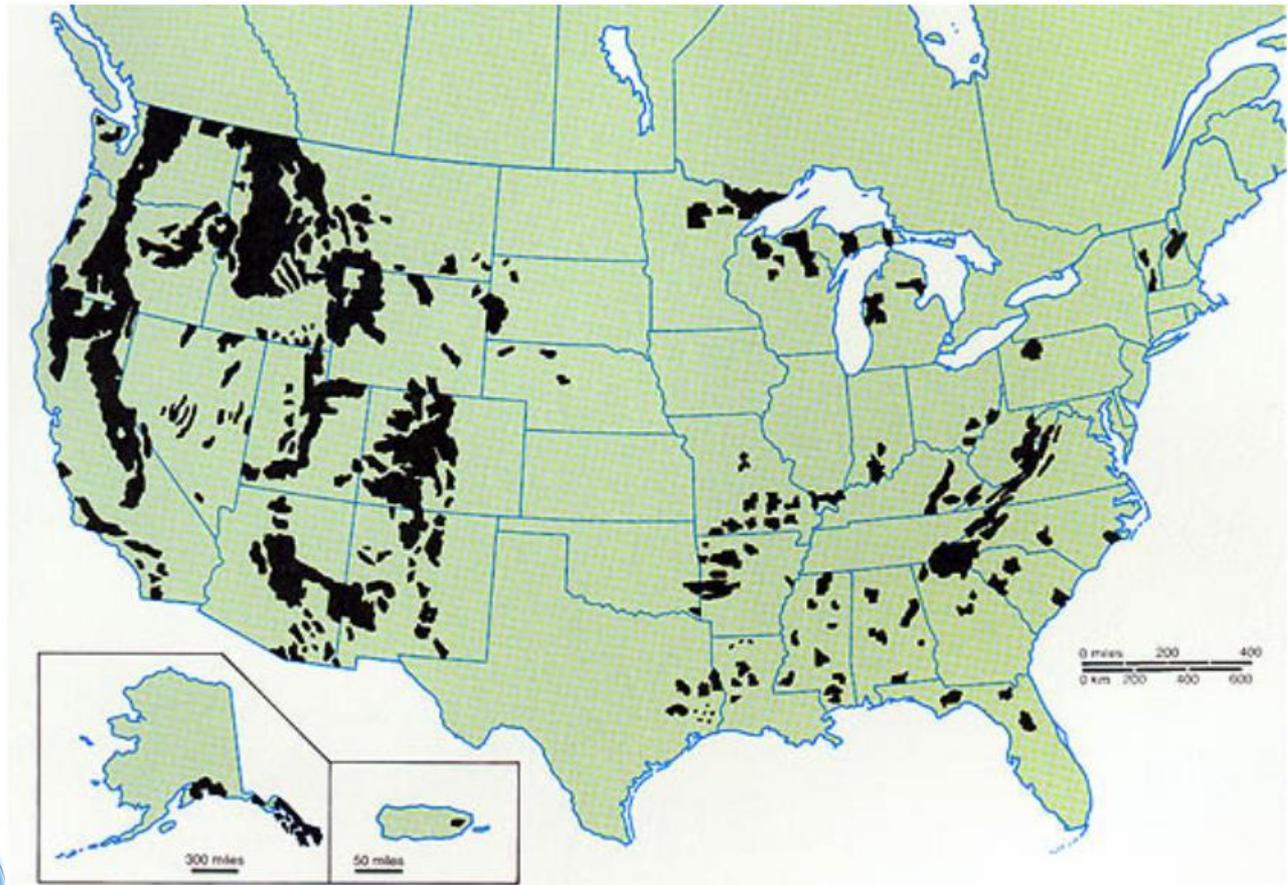
**State of California
cross-walked to the NVC
(CalVEG to NVC)**

- M009 Californian Forest & Woodland Macrogroup [↗](#)**
 - G195 Californian Broadleaf Forest & Woodland Group [↗](#)
 - A3348 Blue Oak - California Foothill Pine Woodland Alliance *Quercus douglasii* - *Pinus sabiniana* Woodland Alliance [↗](#)
 - CEGL005313 Blue Oak - California Foothill Pine / Birchleaf Mountain-mahogany Woodland Association *Quercus douglasii* - *Pinus sabiniana* / *Cercocarpus montanus* var. *glaber* Woodland Association [↗](#)
 - CEGL005314 Blue Oak / Mixed Herbaceous Woodland Association *Quercus douglasii* / Mixed Herbaceous Woodland Association [↗](#)
 - A4125 California Buckeye Woodland Alliance *Aesculus californica* Woodland Alliance [↗](#)

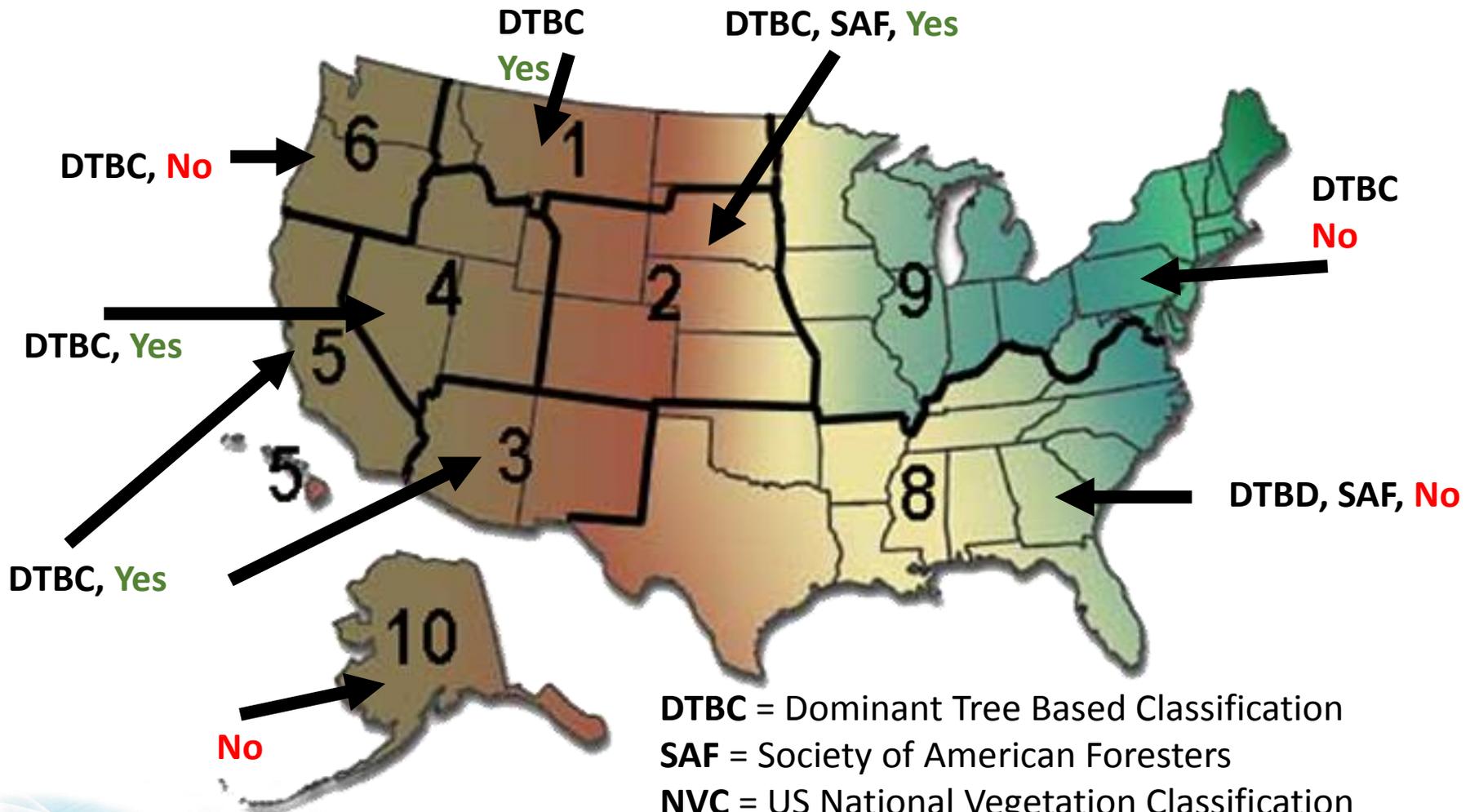
Recent Developments/Projects

- **NVC was adopted by the Forest Service**

■ National Forests



Recent Developments/Projects – FS regions



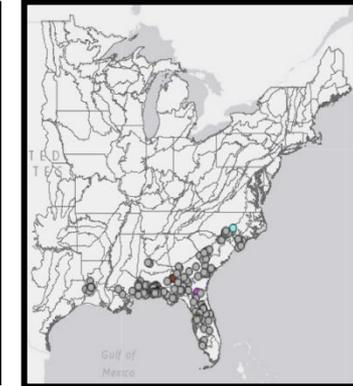
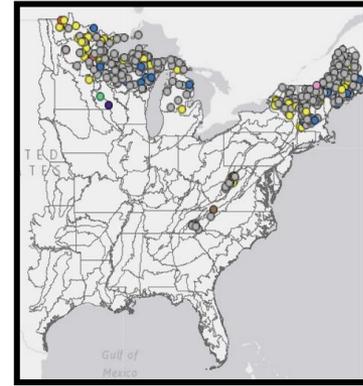
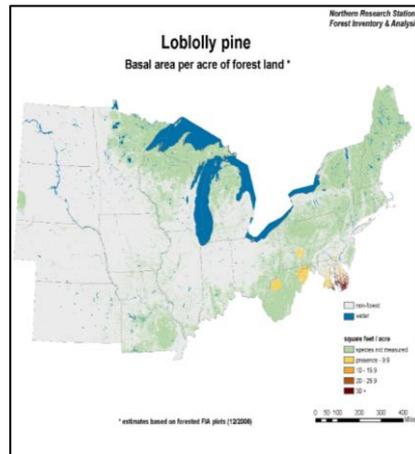
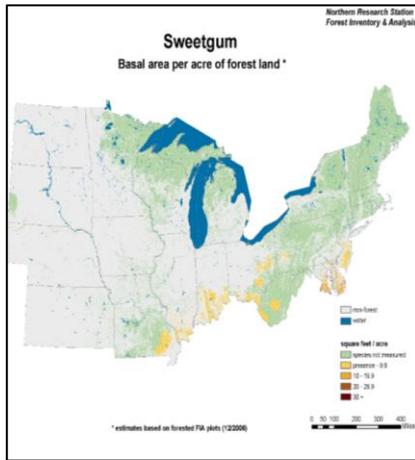
DTBC = Dominant Tree Based Classification
SAF = Society of American Foresters
NVC = US National Vegetation Classification

Yes = NVC crosswalk

No = no NVC crosswalk

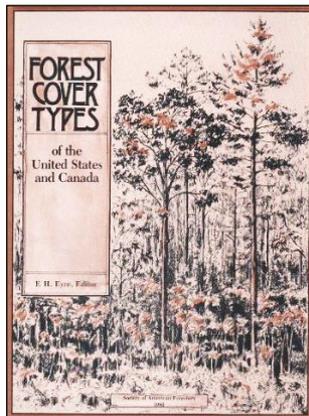


Recent Developments/Projects, Cont'd.



M014
Laurentian-
Acadian Mesic
Hardwood -
Conifer Forest

M007
Longleaf
Pine
Woodland

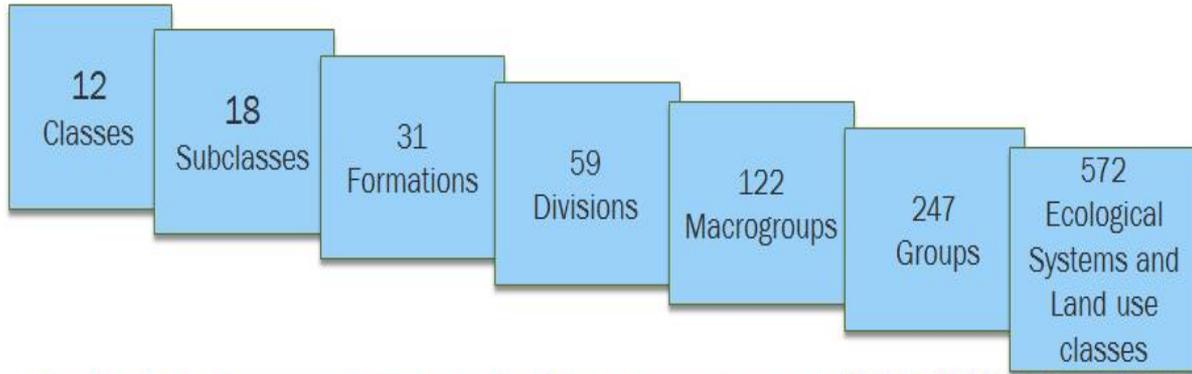


- 1 Mesomorphic Tree Vegetation Class
 - 1.B Temperate & Boreal Forest & Woodland Subclass
 - 1.B.1 Warm Temperate Forest & Woodland Formation
 - 1.B.1.Na *Pinus palustris* - *Quercus hemisphaerica* - *Magnolia grandiflora* Forest & Woodland Division
 - M305 *Liquidambar styraciflua* - *Pinus taeda* - *Triadica sebifera* Ruderal Forest Macrogroup
 - G031 *Pinus taeda* - *Liquidambar styraciflua* - *Triadica sebifera* Ruderal Forest Group
 - 1.B.2 Cool Temperate Forest & Woodland Formation
 - 1.B.2.Na *Acer saccharum* - *Fagus grandifolia* - *Quercus rubra* Forest & Woodland Division
 - M502 Appalachian-Northeastern Oak - Hardwood - Pine Forest & Woodland Macrogroup
 - G495 *Pinus rigida* - *Quercus* spp. / *Morella pensylvanica* Forest Group
 - 1.B.3 Temperate Flooded & Swamp Forest Formation
 - 1.B.3.Nb *Taxodium distichum* - *Nyssa biflora* - *Quercus lyrata* Flooded & Swamp Forest Division
 - M033 *Nyssa biflora* - *Quercus michauxii* - *Taxodium distichum* Basin Swamp & Flatwoods Macrogroup
 - G038 *Nyssa biflora* - *Nyssa ogeche* - *Taxodium distichum* Basin Swamp Group

FIA PLOT
DATA



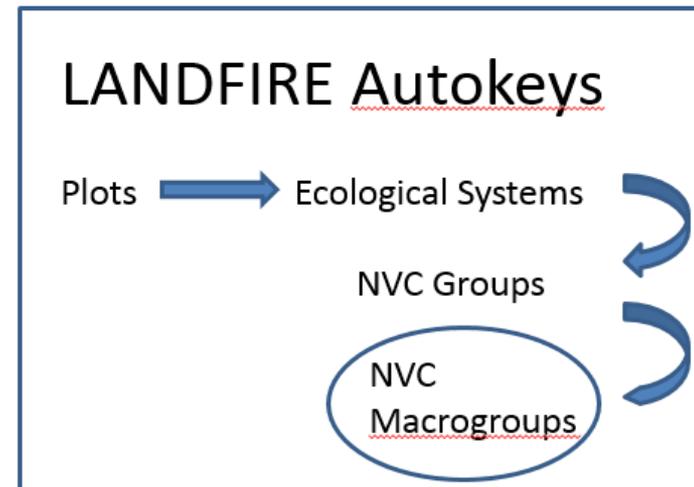
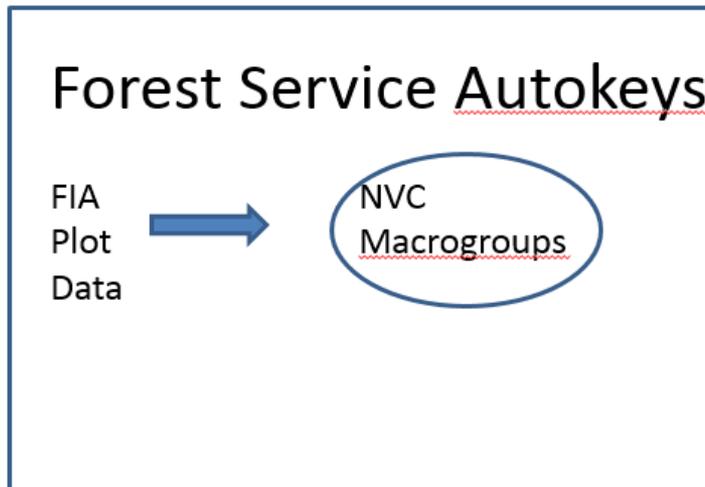
Recent Developments/Projects



LANDFIRE and GAP projects use autokeys for cross-walking existing vegetation maps to the USNVC hierarchy allows for **scaling of the information** specific to the application in an ecological context.

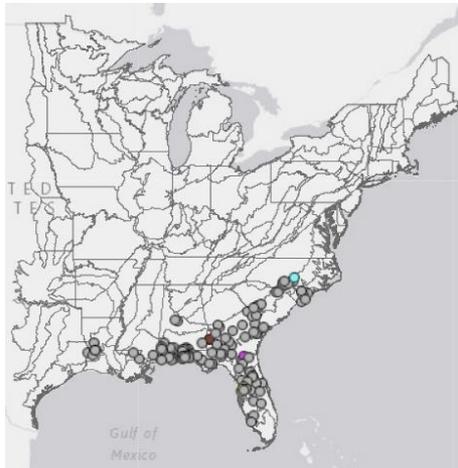
Recent Developments/Projects

- Subcommittee is comparing auto key methods

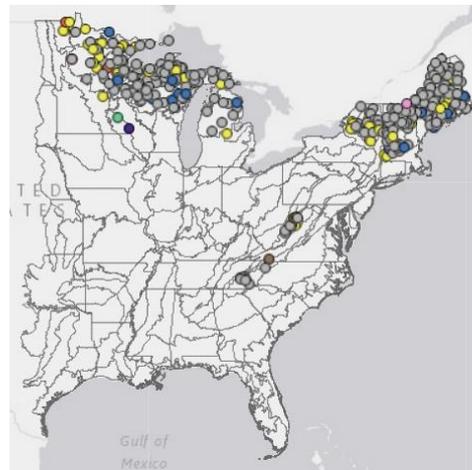


Recent Developments/Projects

Examples of Positive Correlation between LANDFIRE and FIA Key



M007 Longleaf Pine
Woodland
95% Match



M014 Laurentian-
Acadian Mesic Hardwood
- Conifer Forest
80% Match



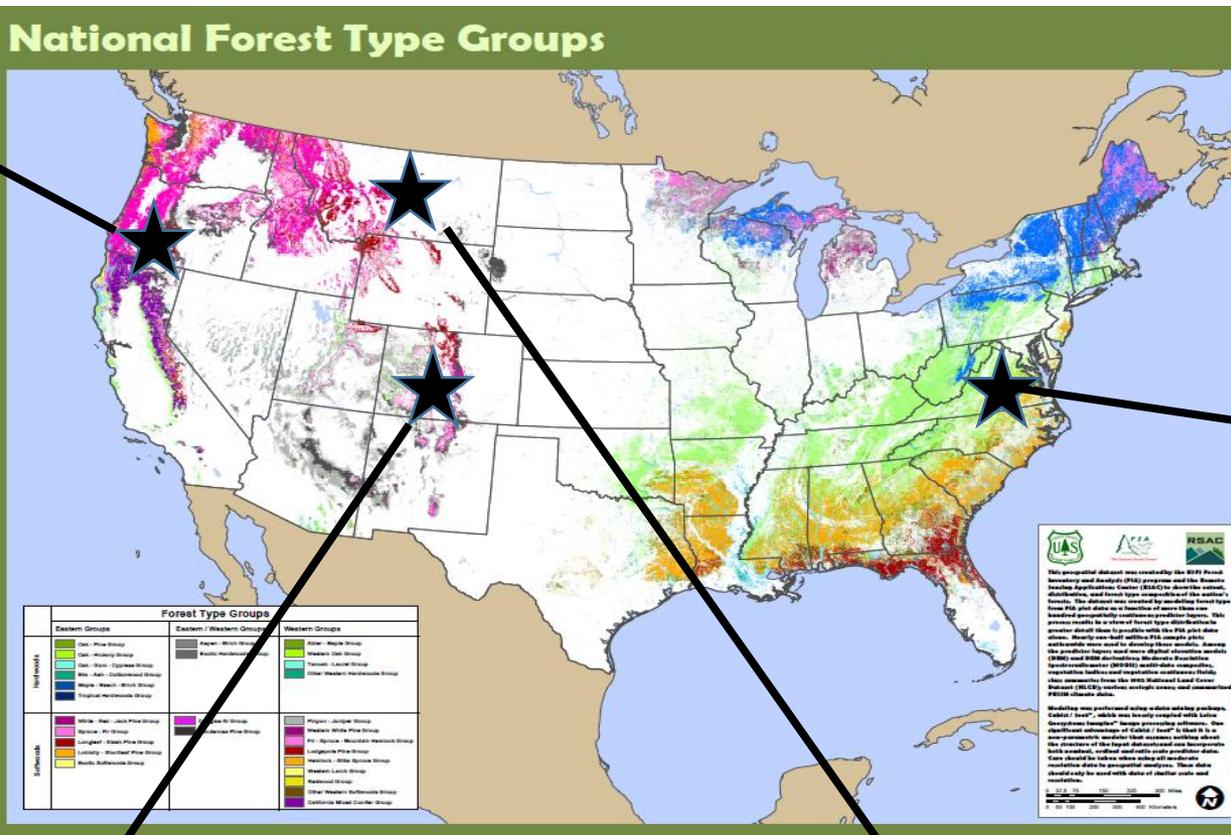
M159 Laurentian-
Acadian Pine -
Hardwood Forest &
Woodland
88% Match

Next Meeting

- ❖ The next meeting of the FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee will be June 27 via teleconference.

- ❖ Some of the topics to be discussed at the next meeting include:
 - 14 Poster presentations at the ESA Annual Meeting
 - Symposium at Natural Areas Conference.
 - Status of projects and budget for ESA cooperative agreement
 - Stabilization of the infrastructure for NVC
 - Discussion of candidate states for partnerships.
 - Multi-agency discussion on pitfalls and strategies for cross-walking.

Outreach and Education Events



ESA Annual Meeting
August 2017

ESA Vegetation Classification Panel
May 2017

Natural Areas Conference
November 2017

American Institute of Biological Sciences Mts
June 2018

Next Steps

- ❖ In the coming months, the FGDC Vegetation Subcommittee hopes to accomplish/discuss:
 - Obtaining funding to sustain the infrastructure of the NVC.
 - Help the Forest Service implement crosswalks to the NVC in every Region
 - Develop partnerships with at least 3 states willing to crosswalk vegetation to the NVC.
 - Present 14 posters at a special session on the NVC at the Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America and plan for Natural Areas Conference.

Questions?

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